

- 1 20. The system of claim 1 wherein the server computer is
2 adapted to facilitate the performance of administrative
3 functions.
- 1 21. The system of claim 20 wherein the administrative functions
2 include adding a new user.
- 1 22. The system of claim 20 wherein the administrative functions
2 include monitoring workflow.
- 1 23. The system of claim 1 wherein the system is used for the
2 delivery of on-line courses.
- 1 24. An apparatus, comprising:
2 a programmed computer, further comprising:
3 a memory having at least one region for storing
4 executable program code; and
5 a processor for executing the program code stored in
6 the memory, wherein the program code, further comprises:
7 code to receive information for inclusion in a
8 hierarchical database;
9 code to search information contained in the
10 hierarchical database at multiple levels in the
11 hierarchical database;
12 code to retrieve information contained in the

13 hierarchical database identified as a result of a search;
14 and
15 code to build content from information received
16 for inclusion in hierarchical database and from information
17 retrieved from the hierarchical database.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the hierarchical database
2 includes objects, which represent units of information
3 contained in the hierarchical database, and at least one
4 larger unit of information, which represents a grouping of
5 objects.

6 26. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the larger unit of
7 information represents a concept.

8 27. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the larger unit of
9 information represents a topic.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the larger unit of
2 information represents a course.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the larger unit of
2 information represents a series.

1 30. The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising code to search
2 the information in the hierarchical database at the object
3 level.

1 31. The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising code to search
2 the information in the hierarchical database at the concept
3 level.

1 32. The apparatus of claim 27 further comprising code to search
2 the information in the hierarchical database at the topic
level.

1 33. The apparatus of claim 28 further comprising code to search
2 the information in the hierarchical database at the course
3 level.

1 34. The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising code to search
2 the information in the hierarchical database at the series
3 level.

1 35. The apparatus of claim 30 further comprising code to
2 preview information identified as a result of the search.

1 36. The apparatus of claim 30 further comprising code to build
2 content from information retrieved from the object level of
3 the hierarchical database.